

Transcription details:

13-Aug-2014 | The Biblical Prophecy Program™

Who Are We and What is The Biblical Prophecy Program™? – Ep. 1

To listen to this episode go to: www.alankurschner.com/1

***The following is a transcript so it has not been edited for grammar and spelling.**

Transcription results:

[music]

It's time for the Biblical Prophecy Program with your host Alan Kurschner of Eschatos Ministries.

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Welcome to the first episode of the Biblical Prophecy Program. Who are we and what is the Biblical Prophecy Program? I'm your host, Alan Kurschner. This is a program that is produced by Eschatos Ministries, and you can find the ministries at alankurschner.com. I understand a lot of people are going to misspell that name, so my first name Alan, A-L-A-N, and the last name is Kurschner, K-U-R-S-C-H-N-E-R. So it's alankurschner.com. Eschatos Ministries, we're dedicated to teaching biblical prophecy from a futurist, premillennial, prewrath perspective and I'm going to explain briefly what these three issues are later in the show. But if you go to alankurschner.com, you're going to find several helpful resources on biblical prophecy. First there is the blog - the blog is where I write articles and make announcements and whatnot. Also the shows, each episode is going to have show notes, and basically the show notes, it's a blogpost of the show themselves, and that's where you can listen to the show. And, by the way, if you want updates on the blog, you can go to alankurschner.com, on the right hand side, the right hand side column, you'll see you can put your email address in there and you can subscribe to the blog itself. So any blog updates as well as a RSS feed. So if you don't know a RSS feed, that's fine. A lot of these links here I'll have in the show notes.

Another source is, we have a new YouTube channel. I'm going to be doing videos from time to time and decided I'm going to those-- this is an audio program, the Biblical Prophecy Program will be audio. But from time to time that's separate from the show itself, I will be doing videos. Again you can go to the show notes and you can subscribe to our YouTube channel, as well as Twitter. We have a Twitter account. And by the way, the way to get to the show notes is go to alankurschner.com/1, that's not the word one, that's the number one. So alankurschner.com/1, just 1.

Other resources with Eschatos ministries includes two recent books I published. Last year I published a book called The Antichrist Before the Day of the Lord - what every Christian needs to know about the return of Christ. And this year I wrote a slim-down version of it, called Prewrath - A very short introduction to the Great Tribulation, Rapture and Day of the Lord. So those are two books that I think will be very helpful for reading up on biblical prophecy, especially from the perspective that I will be talking about. By the way, the slim-down version - just to kind of put a plug in here - I'm selling those at discount, so you can actually purchase ten of them for \$5.00 each. I decided to do this deep discount because I want to get this message out, and so you can purchase ten of them for \$5.00 each and just hand them out to people.

Another feature of Eschatos Ministries is I - as many of you know out there - for about two years now I've been doing these Bible Prophecy conferences called Before the Day of Lord out in California, the Midwest, down south, all around I've been doing these Bible Prophecy conferences, and if you want to know if I'll be coming in your area, you can go to the website, click on the menu where it says Speaking

Events, and you can see where I'm going to be speaking next.

And of course the big announcement about the new resource for Eschatos Ministries is this new program, the Biblical Prophecy Program. And the Biblical Prophecy Program, this is going to be a weekly program. It's not live, but it is pre-recorded, and the format of the show is going to be, well obviously I'm going to be addressing topics of Biblical Prophecy and I'm also going to be playing audio clips from other prophecy teachers and other people and responding to them and interacting with them. So I'm looking forward to having that interaction.

Another feature of the program is, on occasion I'm going to devote an entire show on answering your questions. It's not going to be just, Hey, what do I think is most important, but answering your questions as well. In fact I've set up a feature on our contact page - if you go to alankurschner.com/contact - down below the page you are able to leave a recorded message, asking a question for the show. So again, that's alankurschner.com/contact. You can leave a recorded message at the bottom of the page. I can't guarantee, you know if 50 people leave a question, I'm not going to answer 50 questions in one show, but I'll pick the ones that I think might be most beneficial for most people.

The Biblical Prophecy Program, like I mentioned, this is an audio program and there are three ways to listen to the program. The first way is maybe the way you're listening to it right now, is just very simple by coming directly to the website and clicking on the player to listen, that's it, pretty simple. Second, you can, again when you come to the website, come to the page where the show is instead of just clicking on the play button there, there'll be a download link and you can actually download the show. And then you can download to your computer and you can actually open it up and play it in your media player of choice on your computer. Third, and I use this means of listening to other programs, and that is through iTunes. You don't have to come to the website to listen to the show, but instead you can subscribe to it through iTunes. So if you open up iTunes, if you have iTunes on your--, you can go to the iTunes store and in the Podcast, there is a Podcast Audio Program feature of iTunes and do a search for the Biblical Prophecy Program. My show will come right up and you can subscribe right from iTunes. And again I'm going to have all these link in the show notes, so you can just one-click to all these features.

Let me shift gears here and tell you a little bit about my background and who I am and what I believe about Biblical Prophecy. I grew up in God's Country, Wisconsin, that is [?] Wisconsin. So if you hear my upper midwestern accent, that is because I'm from Wisconsin. You see in the upper Midwest we love our o's and our a's so much that we pronounce them a little bit longer than most people in the country. By the way I was born in Minnesota. Even though I grew up in a Christian household and I attended Christian schools, elementary school, Christian high school in Wisconsin, it was not until I was about the age 25 when the Lord in His undeserving grace saved me. And since then I've had a heart for God's people and I thank God for His forgiveness of my sins and give me a desire in my heart to become more sanctified and strive to be more like His son, every day, every month, every year.

As far as my education, I attended the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire for college. I received a BA in Philosophy as my major and an English minor. And I eventually went on to Graduate School at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which is out in Boston, actually it's on the north shore of Boston, and I received an MA in Biblical Languages. And during that program, when I was out there, I was able to take course work in New Testament Studies at Harvard Divinity. In the present I am working on a PhD in Greek Linguistics. So that's a little bit about my education.

I am 43 years of age, and I actually married late in life, at the age of 40, so you can the math, I've been married for three years. In fact my anniversary is coming up and I better not forget my anniversary. I might be in a little bit of trouble there. Married when I was forty, in fact in my 30s I was beginning to wonder if I was going to be a bachelor to the Rapture. My beautiful wife grew up in North Jersey and that's where we live right now, and that's where Eschatos Ministries is out of as well. As far as hobbies, I enjoy playing tennis, snowshoeing in the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Obviously I live in New Jersey

now, but I do get back to Wisconsin and try to enjoy that weather. You can't do much snowshoeing in New Jersey. First of all they don't get too much snow, they think they get a lot of snow. They don't. I guess it's all relative, right? And when it does snow out here basically it melts the very next day. I enjoy visiting museums, I'm a bit of a history buff, in fact, I'm very serious when I say this, but if I did not go the career route of teaching, into theological and biblical studies and all that, I would most likely be a Wisconsin historian today. I love Wisconsin history, and I probably would have gone that route.

Let me say something about the mission and the pillars of Eschatos Ministries. Actually, sometime I assume too much, maybe some of you are wondering what does Eschatos mean. It's a Greek work and it means last. Generally is just means last and there is obviously nuances that one of these days I'll unpack for all of you. But yeah, it means last, so it's denoting last things, like eschatology right is the study of-- eschatology is the study of eschatology, yeah right. Eschatology is the study of last things. So, it's roughly equivalent to endtimes but it's not perfectly the same thing. And on the website we have a About page and it says that we're dedicated to teaching Biblical Prophecy from a futurist, premillennial and prewrath prospective.

Now let me briefly define these terms, very briefly, but, because this is the Biblical Prophecy Program, so obviously in subsequent episodes of this program we're going to be talking a lot more in depth on these three areas of eschatology. When I say this is from my futurist point of view, futurism says that basically, again that is kind of a oversimplification, but I'll give an example in a moment here, that basically many of the prophecies in Scripture, especially in Matthew 24 and 25, which is called the Olive Discourse, and Mark 13 and Luke 21, Paul's Thessalonian Epistles and the Book of Revelation, basically most of these prophecies are still yet in the future, hence futurism. In contrast to historicism that says, No these prophecies they're being fulfilled interadvental, in an interadvental fashion that is they're being fulfilled between the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ. Another view is preterism. Preterism says, No, basically most of these events have been fulfilled roughly in the 1st century. So, why are we looking forward to all these events in the future, where they've already been fulfilled, that's what they would argue. And there is another view, idealism, which say, No, these are not historical events, future events, interadvental events. These prophecies are merely idealistic or idealism, that's the term I'm thinking of. Idealism says that they represent ideas, concepts. Good example, Antichrist, Antichrisis, let's take Antichrist Great Tribulation. Futurism, such as myself, I believe there are good reasons to believe that there is yet to be fulfilled the Antichrist Great Tribulations, in the future, that hasn't happened yet. Historicist would say, No the Antichrist Great Tribulations basically represents all martyrs throughout church history and Antichrist maybe is embodied in, I don't know, some institution where preterism say, No the Antichrist Great Tribulation that happened in 80, 70 or roughly around 80, 70. Its already happened. I think that's a good example to describe in contrast these three views. But I believe there are very good reasons why the Bible should be construed in a futurist framework and I will be arguing for that in later episodes.

The second pillar is premillennialism, and premillennialism - the debate between premillennialism and amillennialism - a lot of people are confused about this. It is not a debate on whether the 1,000 years is literal or not. It's very important. That actually is quite irrelevant. I believe that the 1,000 years mentioned in Revelation 20 is literal, but let's say it is symbolic. It could be symbolic for 10,000 years. The point is that there is a period of time, and, by the way, our millennialist agree with us, agree with premillennials in that there is a period of time, a lengthy period of time. But that's not the debate. The debate is, when does it begin? That is, when does the binding of Satan begin? Because both premillennialists and amillennialists really agree on two things, number one, there is a period of time, a lengthy period of time, and number two that period of time begins when Satan is bound. But the debate is on - the watershed question is - when did that binding begin? amillennialists believe that it began at Christ' first coming, premillennialists believe that it will begin at Christ' second coming. Once again I am a premillennialist because I believe there is good reasons that the Bible teaches that the binding of Satan that's described in Revelation 20 will happen in the future when Christ returns at His second coming. As far as millennialism - this is the belief in conjunction with the premillennial deal. This is when Christ returns, He will establish a physical kingdom. It's going to culminate into a social,

political, ethnic, spiritual, physical kingdom of God where Christ Himself in flesh rules the nations. And that will begin to happen when Christ returns. The millennial kingdom as described in the Old Testament is not happening at this moment,

So, let's move on to the third pillar and that is, prewrath. We have futurism, premillennialism and prewrath. So prewrath is a view, is a subset view. So think of premillennialism as an umbrella, and there's different views under premillennialism, you have pretribulationism, you have midtribulationism, which that view is pretty much defunct today. You have prewrath, and then you have posttribulationism. What is prewrath? I'm not going to go too much in depth here because again, we're going to be talking quite a bit about that, and I would refer my book, *Antichrist Before the Day of the Lord, What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Return of Christ*, for a full-orbed description of this view. But prewrath basically believes that Scripture makes a very important biblical distinction between the Antichrist' Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord's Wrath. We believe if you don't recognize this distinction you will get a lot of things wrong in your eschatology. We see that there is a consistent pattern in Jesus' teaching and Paul's teaching in the Book of Revelation that makes this distinction. The Antichrist Great Tribulation will happen first. This will be the persecution in the Great Tribulation. The object of persecution will be against God's people, the church and of course, there will be a remnant of Jews who Antichrist will go after as well.

We don't know the day of the hour but Jesus says, "Those days of Great Tribulation will be cut short. Will be cut short with the Parousia," that is his return. When he returns-- by the way, Jesus says that they're cut short for the sake of the elect because, listen. It's Satan's desire to exterminate all believers and in God's sovereign timing He will see that the Great Tribulation is cut short. We don't know the day of the hour, but they will be cut short with His return, His revelation, Apocalypses, He will be in the clouds and He will resurrect the people of God, and those who remain, the Resurrection and the Christians who remain alive up to His return, will both be raptured to Him in the clouds, and meet Him in the clouds. And then on that very same day that God delivers His people, He will pour out His wrath upon the wicked in this world, and that is called the Day of the Lord's Wrath. So the church will encounter the Antichrist persecution. Persecution is nothing new for the church. However, Jesus does say it's going to be unprecedented type of persecution, the last generations of church. In God's infinite wisdom He has ordained that the last generation of the church will experience the severe persecution. I believe at least one of the reasons will be to refine the faith of God's people. This could be a lot of apostacy during that time by the way. You have to recall Jesus' words, in Luke 18 He says, "When the son of man comes, will He find faith?" That's an ominous statement, question, it's almost rhetorical. It as if Jesus is saying not many people will have faith. So prewrath, it's a sober teaching in contrast to for example, pretribulationism, which believes that believes that the rapture will happen at any moment. There's no prophesied events that have to happen first. It will happen before the Antichrist Great Tribulation. I don't see that anywhere in Scripture at all. In fact, it's a relatively new view, just over 150 years old in this view, and particularly in America and Great Britain. And if you do find it in other parts of the world, it's been documented that it's-- because this view that escaped us theology pretribulationism has been exported by pretribulationist American and British missionaries. As far as prewrath some will say, Well, isn't prewrath new? The name of it is new - prewrath. Over 25 years ago, there has been a refinement of the view and it's been given a prewrath. It has affinities with posttribulationism, we both believe that the church will encounter the Antichrist persecution. But prewrath goes back to the very early church, the very early church. In fact, every single church writer up to the year 250, every single church writer who actually wrote on the relationship between Jesus' coming and the Antichrist, all agreed that the church will encounter the Antichrist. By the way, I have this all documented in an appendix in my book, *Antichrist Before the Day of the Lord*.

So that gives you a little bit view on the prewrath position. So futurism, pre-millennialism, and prewrath. I believe this is urgent and listen I could sit here for a couple hours and go through Scripture and explain how Scripture itself says, This is an urgent message. But let me just say Matthew 24,25 - infact I have this verse on my header on the website at Eschatos Ministries. After describing the horrible persecution of the Great Tribulation, the Antichrist Great Tribulation and the false teachers

that are going to come, deceit, deception, Jesus says, "Remember I have told you ahead of time." That is an ominous statement. I mean Jesus didn't simply say, "Remember I have told you." No, He says, "Remember I have told you ahead of time." And the implication there is, listen, when these things begin to happen, it's too late to get your spiritual house in order. It will be too late. Prepare ahead of time. By the way, this is confirmed by the Parables that He gives later. For example, the Ten Virgins, five of them were not prepared. Five of them didn't heed the warning of Christ, to remember I have told you ahead of time.

And yet, sadly, and I don't see this as flippantly. I believe that the church, particularly in America today, is apathetic regarding the second coming of Christ. I think we're too busy people. What I mean by busy is not kingdom worth busy, although you can be kingdom worth busy, but busy, we're distracted with their little social networks and their made up artificial problems in life and television and I could go down the whole list. We need to be vigilant, folks. This is an urgent message and I'm not doing this for my health. This is not a hobby. I'm surely not getting rich, lining my pockets. If anything, this is the labor of love for the people of God and for God. Because I believe this is a calling He has placed on my life. We are living in very interesting times. Things are going to get more difficult. Things will going to get more difficult. Again, this is a bit provincial because I'm living in America. But look at Christians in Iraq, they're being exterminated. They're having their heads cut off. For me, the gravity of what other Christians are going through in different countries should make us Christians in America pause and pray for the people of God in these other countries to have embolden faith. They're given up their life. Our little distractions here, you know I find myself complaining about the traffic sometimes in North Jersey moving from the boondocks of Northern Wisconsin to crazy North Jersey. I can find myself rumbling once in a while, what a lot of traffic, but I have to step back and keep perspective of who I am as a Christian, and how so many other Christians in the world have it so, so much more difficult. So it's a labor of love. As I mentioned, we're living in very interesting times and I don't know how long I will be able to even have this show. Christians are being more censored every day in America, and who knows how long I'll have this freedom to expound on this Biblical urgent message of the Lord's coming. This is why I am putting my efforts, commitments into Eschatos Ministries.

Well, I want to thank you for listening to the show and I hope you will continue to listen. If you can on your part - we are on a shoestring budget - so I'd ask you if you would consider committing to becoming an Eschatos partner, which is giving on a monthly basis. Even if it's just \$5 or \$10? a month, it would help very much. Well again, I will have all the links that I've mentioned in the show notes, where you can connect in different ways with Eschatos ministries.

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